

# An Energy Challenge

Across the nation, schools generally spend 34 percent of their maintenance and operations budget on energy. This accounts for about 7.5 to 8 percent of a school district's total budget. Since energy rates are set, the only way to reduce this budget item is to save energy. The idea for an energy challenge began in Colorado in 1984. That year, students throughout the state surveyed their schools to see where energy was being used and how it could be saved. As a direct result of this project, energy costs for Colorado schools decreased 18 percent.

There's no question that South Carolina students can be as effective conservationists as Colorado students. So take up the challenge at your school. Work with your principal and your student government to do an energy audit of your school. Here are some things you'll want to look at:

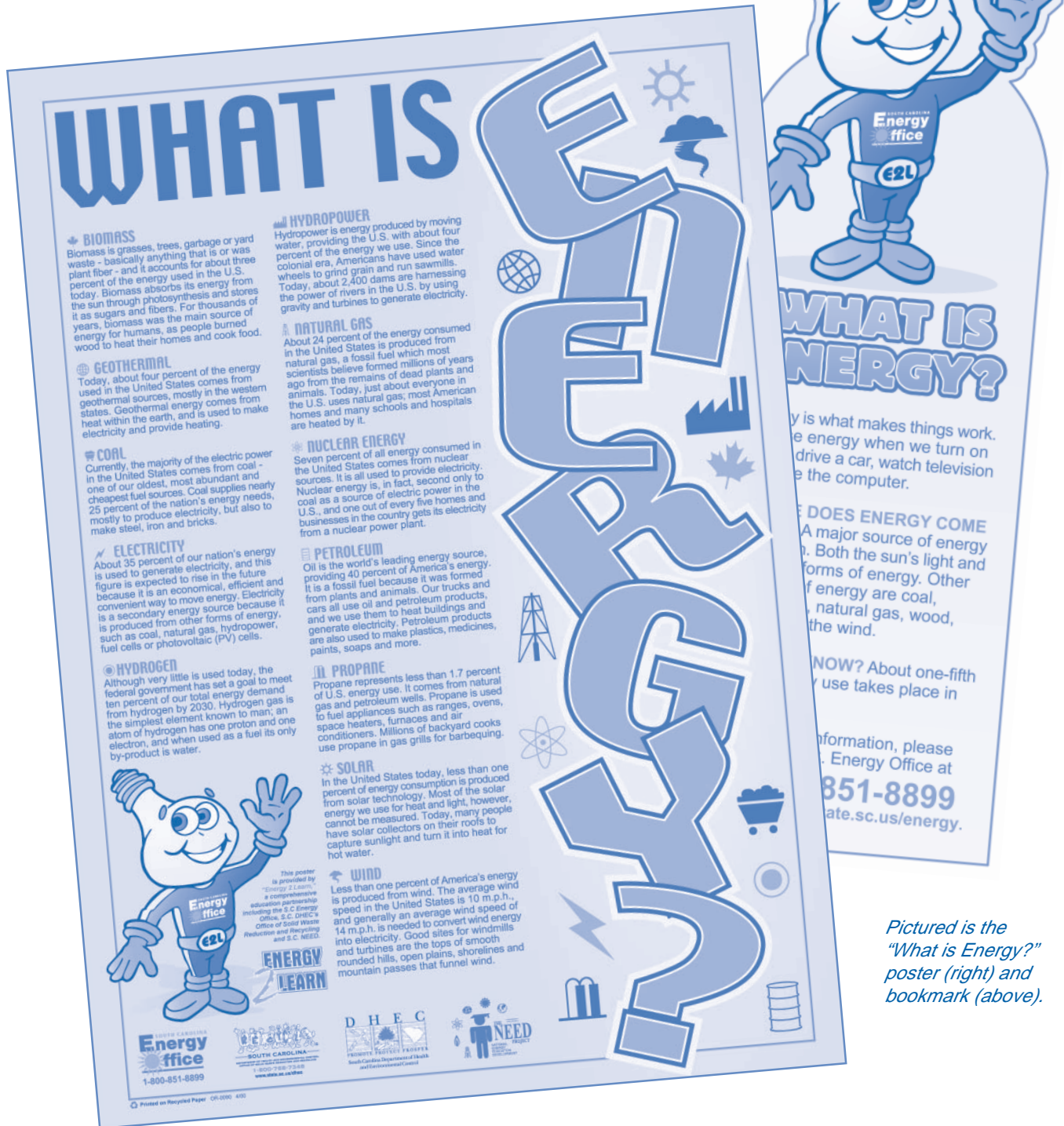
- ✎ What are the energy bills like now? What have they been over the past few years? Keep track of meter readings.
- ✎ What type of heating, cooling and water heating equipment are used? Where are they located?
- ✎ Are there any drafts, damaged weather-stripping or leaky faucets?
- ✎ How and where is the building insulated?
- ✎ Is fluorescent lighting used?
- ✎ What conservation practices do teaching, support and maintenance staff follow? Are lights turned off when leaving a room? Are thermostats lowered at night? How is temperature controlled?
- ✎ Do the classrooms have shades or blinds?
- ✎ Do landscaping and color choices of paint and window treatments promote use of passive solar energy?
- ✎ What types of appliances are used in the cafeteria, the media center and offices?

***This is just a beginning point for your investigation.  
Take the challenge and save your school energy... and money.***



# Energy 2 Learn Resources

The S.C. Energy Office and DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling provide the following resource materials to teachers, schools and the public at no cost. To receive copies, call **1-800-768-7348** or visit [www.scdhec.gov/recycle](http://www.scdhec.gov/recycle).



*Pictured is the "What is Energy?" poster (right) and bookmark (above).*



# More E2L Resources

## 50 ways you can protect South Carolina's Environment



**Spare the Air**

In South Carolina, about half of all man-made air pollution comes from mobile sources like cars, trucks and off-road vehicles.

1. Drive less. Fewer trips will reduce air pollution.
2. Carpool.
3. Walk or ride a bike. Burn carbohydrates instead of hydrocarbons.
4. Shop by phone, mail or the Internet.
5. Ride public transit where available.
6. Drive smart. Slowly increase your car's speed and use cruise control on the highway.
7. Combine your errands into one trip.
8. Obey the speed limit.
9. Keep your car properly tuned.
10. Keep the tires on your car properly inflated. It's safe and saves gasoline.

For more ways to protect the air, visit DHEC's Bureau of Air Quality at [www.scdhec.net/baq](http://www.scdhec.net/baq) or call (803) 898-4132.

**Conserve Energy**

11. Turn off the lights, TV, radio or computer when you leave the room.
12. Use the sun's light whenever you can. Sit by a window to read or do activities.
13. Decide what you want before you open the refrigerator door. Holding the door open lets the cold air escape.
14. Turn off the dishwasher after the wash cycle. Let dishes air dry.
15. On sunny days, hang clothes on a clothesline instead of using the dryer.
16. Encourage your family to walk or ride bikes to nearby places.
17. Observe a "No Cooking Day" once a week. Eat cold cereals, sandwiches, fruits and salads. It's healthy, too.

**Celebrate Earth Day**

Join your school, community, state and world to celebrate Earth Day every April 22nd.

18. Clean the lint trap of the clothes dryer after every load.
19. Use compact fluorescent light bulbs. They are less expensive in the long run.
20. Use a toaster oven to cook small casseroles or dishes.

You have the power to save energy! For more ways to conserve energy, visit the S.C. Energy Office at [www.state.sc.us/energy](http://www.state.sc.us/energy) or call 1-800-851-8899.

**Be Water Wise**

21. Use water wisely. Turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth or washing your hands and face.
22. Run your dishwasher and washing machine only when they have full loads.
23. Use the minimum amount of water needed for baths and showers. When taking a bath, close the drain first and fill the tub only 1/3 full. Take shorter showers and install water-saving shower heads.
24. Dispose of hazardous substances properly. Motor oil, paints and other chemicals should not be poured on the ground, down a storm drain, or in a sewer or septic tank.
25. Study your use of water. Determine how much water your class or family uses every day and suggest ways to use less.
26. Turn off the faucets tightly after each use. If your faucet is dripping at a rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons of water per year.

30. Reuse water. Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it. You can catch rainwater in a container and use it to water your flowers and garden.
31. Don't walk on sand dunes. Walk on the boardwalks.
32. Throw away any litter you may find on the beach. Recycle it, too.
33. Adopt a beach. Join this litter prevention program. For more information, call DHEC at (843) 744-5838.
34. Adopt a marsh. For more information, call DHEC at (843) 744-5838.
35. Do not touch or pick sea oats. They help prevent beach erosion.
36. Do not disturb sea turtle eggs on the beach. Sea turtles are an endangered species.
37. Respect the plants and animals that call the coast "home."
38. If you see someone harming our coastal creeks and beaches, report it. Call DHEC at (843) 744-5838.
39. Keep storm drains free of trash. Some storm drains empty into rivers and creeks.
40. Learn more about our coastal environment. The more you know about the coast, the better you can appreciate it.
41. Recycle. Recycle at home and at school. If you don't have a recycling program at your school, start one. If you have one, improve it.
42. Recycle on your vacation. If you cannot recycle at your favorite vacation spot, take your recyclables home.
43. Buy recycled. Look for items made from recycled content materials. Many school supplies, including pencils, notebooks and notebook paper, pens and backpacks, are made from recycled materials.
44. Compost food and yard waste instead of throwing it away. Grassclippings, leaves and grass clippings add nutrients to the soil.
45. Take your own reusable bag when you go shopping.
46. Wrap gifts in the Sunday comics.
47. Recycle printer cartridges. For more information, call 1-800-768-7348.
48. Recycle unwanted mail.
49. Recycle used motor oil, oil bottles and oil filters. Remind your parents. For a collection site near you, call 1-800-768-7348.
50. Avoid using disposable products. Use your own cup or glass. Use cloth napkins.

For more information about recycling and other solid waste management issues, visit DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling at [www.scdhec.net/recycle](http://www.scdhec.net/recycle) or call 1-800-768-7348.

"Curly the Crab" is the mascot for DHEC's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.

"E2" is the Energy Office's mascot.

"Can Guy" is a member of the "Recycle Guy" from DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling.

This poster is provided through an environmental education partnership with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, the S.C. Soft Drink Association and the National Soft Drink Association.

This poster is printed 100 percent recycled paper.



**PEPSI**

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
South Carolinians used almost 70 million megawatt hours of electricity annually, costing nearly \$4.8 billion.

**ENERGY TIPS:**  
Conserve energy by turning off TVs, radios and computers when not in use.

For more information, call the S.C. Energy Office at 1-800-851-8899.

**SOUTH CAROLINA Energy office**  
1-800-851-8899

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*"50 Ways to Protect South Carolina's Environment" (above) is a poster featuring tips to improve air quality, conserve water, protect coastal resources, recycle and conserve energy.*

*A series of environmental trading cards also is available. The 20-card set includes one featuring E2, the S.C. Energy Office's goodwill ambassador, and includes other fun energy facts.*

*Remember, these materials are available to teachers, schools and the public at no cost.*

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